

# BEACONS of LIGHT

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Learning about the Beacons of Light process is essential to a successful outcome. Beacons of Light has six key Principles each of which have Vision Points and Parameters that will guide us on our journey. Each of these will eventually have its own committee in which to discuss and plan how we will carry out each principle. Please take the time to read and discern where you can best help our Family of Parishes live out our baptismal call. After some brief introductions to what the Principles, Vision Points, and Parameters are, we will focus on the source and summit of our faith, The Eucharist.

God's blessings,

Fr Matt

## **Beacons of Light Pastoral Planning Pathway**

Over the next six weeks, will be highlighting the six key *Principles* by which each Family of Parishes must use in their pastoral planning to become a Beacon of Light. Each of these *Principles* have corresponding *Vision Points* and *Parameters* that will guide the process.

### **What are Principles?**

There are six key principles that have been approved by Archbishop Schnurr that will be the foundation for the pastoral plans each Family of Parishes will develop. They include:

- 1. EUCHARIST**
- 2. CHURCH**
- 3. STEWARDSHIP**
- 4. EVANGELIZATION**
- 5. LOVE IN ACTION**
- 6. ADMINISTRATION**

### **What are Vision Points?**

Vision points will guide leaders to consider what living the principle to its fullest would mean for the Family and to plan toward fulfilling that vision. Parish leaders must keep the vision of the parish as a beacon of light in mind as they create the plan for their Family of Parishes.

## What are Parameters?

Archbishop Schnurr has approved **parameters** to guide the pastoral planning process, establishing common expectations for each Family of Parishes. These parameters will address things that all Families must or must not do as they come together. While each Principle will have its own corresponding parameters, there are three parameters that apply to the whole Beacons of Light Pastoral Planning Process.

## GENERAL PARAMETERS

**P1** Families of Parishes must follow canon law, civil law, all universal and particular Church law, and archdiocesan policies.

**P2** Families of Parishes must develop a pastoral plan for parish vitality, submitted at least annually, reviewed by the dean, to be approved by the archbishop in conformity with the parameters of the Pastoral Planning Pathway according to the published timeline.

**P3** By September 1, 2022, every Family of Parishes must form a Planning Team, led by the pastor, to coordinate pastoral planning geared toward the unification of the Family by June 30, 2027.



## PRINCIPLE I EUCHARIST

The Mass is the source and summit of the whole Christian life. Accordingly, the Eucharist is the essential moment for building up and strengthening the parish community, along with the sacraments and other celebrations of the paschal mystery — the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

## VISION POINTS

- **Sunday Mass:** The Sunday Eucharist is the essential gathering of the parish community each week and is the “paradigm for other Eucharistic celebrations” (*Dies Domini*, 34); therefore life-giving, beautiful, and transformative celebration of Sunday Mass is critical.

- **Christ's Presence:** Sacramental celebrations and other parish and school liturgies are true encounters with Jesus Christ present in Word and Sacrament, in the ministry of the priest and in the gathered assembly. (*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, 7)
- **Unity:** As the sacrament of unity (1 Cor 10:17), celebrations of the Eucharist within the Family are opportunities for members of the parishes to worship together. The cultural traditions of the members of the Family of Parishes are honored and celebrated, particularly on special feasts.
- **Formation:** Every Family of Parishes offers liturgical and sacramental formation "with zeal and patience" (*CSL*, 19), deepening an appreciation of the sacred mysteries.
- **Ars Celebrandi:** Attention to the art of celebrating the liturgy is important: fidelity to texts and rubrics as well as a prayerful understanding of liturgical texts, feasts, and seasons kindles full, conscious, and active participation among the faithful. (*Sacramentum Caritatis*, 38) Preaching and music are foremost among the liturgical arts and are well-prepared for liturgical celebrations.
- **Trained Ministers:** Priests, deacons, and lay liturgical ministers are well-trained and formed for leadership of communities at prayer and are "imbued with the spirit of the liturgy." (*CSL*, 14)
- **Sacred Space:** Churches, chapels, and other sacred buildings should be "truly worthy and beautiful, signs and symbols of heavenly realities," the house of the Church and the house of God, "suitable for carrying out the sacred action and for ensuring the active participation of the faithful." (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, 288)
- **Adoration:** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is readily available within the Family of Parishes with proper catechesis for all.

## PARAMETERS

**P4:** The regular Mass schedule for a Family of Parishes may not assume more than two Masses per day per priest.

**P5:** A regularly scheduled Mass for the Sunday precept must have annual average attendance of at least 50% of the church capacity.

**P6:** The regular Mass schedule must provide the opportunity for priests to spiritually prepare for and be present to the community after Mass.

**P7:** There must be a sufficient number of trained and formed liturgical ministers to serve as readers, servers, EMsHC, music ministers, et al. for liturgical celebrations.

**P8:** Sacramental formation must be provided.

## REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What role does the Eucharist play in your life? Do you believe in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist; Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity?
- Is the celebration of the Eucharist the source and summit of your life? What are some concrete actions you take to ensure that Sunday Mass remains a priority?
- Are you active in the ministries associated with the celebration of Mass? If not, what is holding you back from participating and serving?
- Do you take time to adequately prepare both physically and spiritually for Mass?
- Does prayer have a prominent place in your daily life? Do you read Sacred Scripture frequently...daily? Do you allow adequate amounts of silence in your prayer to allow the Lord to speak?
- Do you take learning the faith seriously? What areas of the faith do you need to study and pray more deeply about?
- What are the cultural traditions that draw you to the parish you attend? How might you share those traditions with the other four parishes in our Family of Parishes?